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Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Sixty-sixth plenary session
Geneva, 18-20 June 2018
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Opening and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for sixty-sixth plenary session

The plenary session will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, starting at 9:30 on Monday, 18 June 2018.

I. Provisional Agenda

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising from the forty-ninth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission.
3. Measuring what matters – broadening official statistics:
   (a) Session 1: Emerging topics;
   (b) Session 2: How to react swiftly.
4. Reports, guidelines and recommendations prepared under the umbrella of the Conference:
   (a) Leading, composite and sentiment indicators, interim report;
   (b) Data integration for measuring migration;
   (c) Measuring international labour mobility;
   (d) Use of registers and administrative data for population and housing censuses;
   (e) Common elements of statistical legislation;
   (f) Entrepreneurship statistics;
   (g) Exchange and sharing of economic data.

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5. Collaboration with United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management: Europe on geospatial data and statistics.

6. Work of the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics.

7. Getting our message across: Strategic reflections on modernizing statistical communication.

8. Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals.

   (a) Progress in implementing the *Conference of European Statisticians Road Map on statistics for Sustainable Development Goals*;

   (b) Principles for rotation of members from the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe region of the Interagency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals indicators and the High-level Group on Partnership, Cooperation and Capacity Building for the 2030 Agenda.

9. Strategy for capacity development in United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.

10. Selection of topics for seminars to take place during the 2019 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians.

11. Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe:

   (a) Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists;

   (b) Work of the Expert Group on national accounts;

   (c) Programme planning documents for the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

12. Outcomes of the in-depth reviews carried out by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians in October 2017 and February 2018.

13. Other business.

14. Adoption of the report and closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations

The sixty-sixth plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) will convene at the request of the sixty-fifth CES plenary session (ECE/CES/93) and in accordance with the *Rules Governing the Work of the Conference and its Bureau* (CES/2007/8).

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

The final provisional agenda and timetable was agreed upon by the CES Bureau at its February 2018 meeting. The provisional agenda will be presented for the approval of the Conference.

2. Matters arising from the 49th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

The agenda item will focus on the implications of the decisions of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) on the work of CES.

3. Measuring what matters – broadening official statistics

This part of the CES plenary session will be held in a seminar format, organised by Poland in collaboration with Israel, New Zealand, Slovakia and UNECE. Mr. D. Rozkrut, President of Statistics Poland will open and introduce the seminar.

Recent years have witnessed a growing interest in measuring areas that are new to official statistics and/or are difficult to measure. The seminar will discuss the challenges for official statistics in reacting to such new topics. Broadening the scope of official statistics towards areas that have traditionally been considered outside its competence can be a risk. At the same time, if what matters is not measured, official statistics may become marginalized or even irrelevant.

The seminar will be opened with a keynote presentation by Prof. Anthony Arundel (UNU-MERIT, University of Tasmania).

(a) Session 1: Emerging topics

The session will be organised by Israel. It will be opened with a keynote presentation by Mr. Konrad Pesendorfer, Director General of Statistics Austria.

The discussion will focus on examples of specific emerging topics discussed at the moment, and the possible solutions and tools for official statistics in dealing with these topics.

(b) Session 2: How to react swiftly

The session will be organized by New Zealand. It will be opened with a keynote presentation by Mr. John Pullinger, National Statistician for the United Kingdom.

The session will discuss good practices on how to react swiftly to emerging topics, and on innovative ways of dealing with new topics. The session will consider how to identify new statistical needs and develop a mechanism for quick reaction; how proactive should official statistics be; official statistics versus experimental statistics; and old topics to be measured differently.

The seminar will conclude with a discussion on next steps and ideas for future collaborative work in this area.

4. Reports, guidelines and recommendations prepared under the umbrella of the Conference

Five documents are planned to be submitted to the 2018 CES plenary session for endorsement and two interim reports for discussion and recommendations.

(a) Leading, composite and sentiment indicators – interim report

In February 2016, the Bureau set up a Task Force to develop a set of *Recommendations with good practices in producing leading, composite and sentiment indicators*.

The CES Bureau reviewed the draft recommendations in October 2017, and asked the secretariat to send the document to all CES members for electronic consultation to get input for finalising the Recommendations. CES will be informed about the outcome of the consultation, and will be invited to discuss and provide recommendations on the interim report. The Recommendations are planned to be submitted to the 2019 CES plenary session for endorsement.

(b) Data integration for measuring migration

The CES Bureau set up a Task Force in October 2015 to prepare a set of guidelines and good practices for integrating different data sources to improve the measurement of immigration, emigration and net migration.

The CES Bureau reviewed the draft *Guidance on data integration for measuring migration* in February 2018, and asked the Secretariat to circulate it to all CES members for an electronic consultation. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the CES plenary session will be invited to endorse the Guidance.

(c) Measuring international labour mobility

The CES Bureau set up a Task Force in October 2015 to develop practical guidance on the compilation of labour mobility statistics, and review countries' practices in this area.

The CES Bureau reviewed the draft document on *Measuring international labour mobility* at its February 2018 meeting, and asked the Secretariat to circulate it to all CES members for an electronic consultation. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the CES plenary session will be invited to endorse the document.

(d) Use of registers and administrative data for population and housing censuses

The CES Bureau set up a Task Force in February 2016 to prepare new guidelines on the use of registers and administrative data for population and housing censuses, covering their operational, practical, technical and legal aspects.

The CES Bureau reviewed the draft *Guidelines on the use of registers and administrative data for population and housing censuses* at its February 2018 meeting, and asked the Secretariat to circulate it to all CES members for an electronic consultation. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the CES plenary session will be invited to endorse the Guidelines.

(e) Common elements of statistical legislation

The CES Bureau set up a Task Force in April 2016 to identify common elements of national statistical legislation to support countries in reinforcing their legal frameworks with the aim to guarantee independence, integrity and accountability of national statistical systems and high quality of official statistics.

The CES Bureau reviewed the draft *Guidance on common elements of statistical legislation* at its February 2018 meeting, and asked the Secretariat to circulate it to all CES members for an electronic consultation. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the CES plenary session will be invited to endorse the Guidance.

(f) Entrepreneurship statistics

The CES Bureau set up a Task Force in June 2016 to develop guidelines on the statistical infrastructure required to support the production of business demography and entrepreneurship statistics.

The CES Bureau reviewed the draft *Guidelines on the statistical infrastructure required to support the production of business demography and entrepreneurship statistics* at its October 2017 meeting. The Bureau asked the Task Force to finalise the document taking into account the comments by the Bureau, and the secretariat to send the updated Guidelines to all CES members for an electronic consultation. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the CES plenary session will be invited to endorse the Guidelines.

(g) Exchange and sharing of economic data

The CES Bureau set up a Task Force on exchange and sharing of economic data in February 2017. The objectives of the Task Force are (1) in the first stage, to analyse examples of data exchange implemented by national statistical offices (NSOs) that help to provide data on activities of multi-national enterprises, identify enablers and obstacles of data sharing and review the practical requirements of data exchange; (2) at the second stage, to develop guidance, tools and principles to facilitate the exchange of economic data by NSOs.

The 2017 CES plenary session discussed exchange and sharing of economic data and asked the Task Force to report back early in its mandate to share its first findings. The Conference will be informed about the preliminary results of the first stage of the work, and will be invited to comment and provide guidance to the Task Force.

The final report of the Task Force, including guidance, tools and principles for data exchange, is planned to be submitted to the 2020 CES plenary session.

5. Collaboration with United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management: Europe on geospatial data and statistics: Europe on geospatial data and statistics

In July 2016, ECOSOC adopted a resolution 2016/27 Strengthening *institutional arrangements on geospatial information management*, and requested the Regional Commissions to provide relevant support, upon request and as appropriate, to the work of the regional bodies of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management, and that the outcomes and benefits of the activities of those bodies be equally disseminated to all Member States in each region. The Conference discussed integrating geospatial data and official statistics in 2016 and 2017, and requested the secretariat to develop a concrete proposal for joint work between statisticians and geospatial experts for a decision by the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM).

The Conference will be informed about the latest developments in this area, including the outcomes of the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Board meeting hosted by UNECE in November 2017, the decision of the UNECE EXCOM on closer collaboration (December 2017), and follow-up discussions between the UNECE Secretariat and the Chair and Secretary of UN-GGIM: Europe.

6. Work of the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics

The High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) was set up to guide strategic developments in transforming the way official statistics are produced. The Conference has expressed strong support for the work and asked HLG-MOS to present annual reports to the CES plenary session.

The UNECE Executive Committee at its meeting in December 2017 expressed support for the HLG-MOS work and renewed its mandate for the period of 2018 – 2022.

HLG-MOS will submit the annual report on its work to the Conference for approval. Furthermore, the Conference will be invited to discuss a renewed vision for the modernisation of official statistics.

7. Getting our message across: Strategic reflections on modernizing statistical communication

This part of the CES plenary session will be organised in a seminar format by Albania in collaboration with Montenegro, Mexico, the Netherlands and UNECE. Ms. D. Ibrahimaj, Director General of Institute of Statistics Albania will open and introduce the seminar.

An effective communications strategy is essential for maintaining the relevance of official statistics in an increasingly competitive environment and maximizing its value to society. National statistical authorities should remain the trusted source to whom to turn when questioning the factual basis of news relying on statistics. The seminar will discuss the challenges NSOs face in modernizing communications in the current environment.

Session 1: Strategic communications

The session will be organized by Mexico and Montenegro. It will focus on modernising communication strategies in statistical offices, and the effect of post truth era on communication strategies. Mr Mike Ackermans, Statistics Netherlands, will give a keynote presentation including examples and best practice from recent successful communication activities.

Session 2: Communication crises - issue and reputation management

The session will be organized by the Netherlands. It will focus on building trust in official statistics through communications and responding to communication issues effectively. Mr. David Kalisch, Australian Bureau of Statistics, will give a keynote presentation related to the experience with the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey in 2017.

8. Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals

(a) Progress in implementing the *Conference of European Statisticians Road Map on statistics for Sustainable Development Goals*

The Conference adopted the *CES Road Map on statistics for SDGs* in June 2017. The First Edition of the Road Map was published in December 2017. The Conference will be informed about progress of work in implementing the Road Map.

(b) Principles of rotation of members from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region of Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators and High Level Group on Partnership, Cooperation and Capacity Building

The CES Bureau agreed in February 2018 on the draft principles for rotation of members from the UNECE region of the Interagency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDG) and the High-level Group on Partnership, Cooperation and Capacity Building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB). The Conference will be invited to approve the Principles.

9. Strategy for capacity development in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

The Bureau discussed and approved the strategy for capacity development in the UNECE region at its February 2018 meeting. The strategy will be circulated to all CES members for electronic consultation and, subject to the positive outcome of the consultation, will be submitted to CES for approval.

10. Selection of topics for seminars to take place during the 2019 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians

The Conference will select topics for the CES seminars in 2019 based on a proposal by the CES Bureau. The proposal will reflect the results of an electronic survey to be carried out by the Secretariat in spring 2018 among the CES member countries and international organizations.

11. Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

(a) Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists

The Conference will be invited to approve the reports related to the UNECE statistical work programme as follows:

(i) Report on the implementation of the UNECE Statistical Programme for 2017 (ECE/CES/2018/14);

(ii) Reports of the CES Bureau meetings, progress reports of Teams of Specialists (Steering Groups and Task Forces) and reports of expert meetings.

(b) Work of the Expert Group on national accounts

The CES Group of Experts on national accounts has played an important role in the implementation of the System of National Accounts (SNA) in the region. In the last twenty years the Group has become a well-established forum facilitating the exchange of best practice and undertaking, jointly with OECD and Eurostat, considerable substantive work in developing methodological guidance. However, the expert group continues to convene as an ad-hoc meeting. Due to the increased complexity of compiling national accounts and the growing importance of issues related to measuring globalization, global production arrangements and human capital, the Bureau agreed in February 2018 on the terms of reference for the conversion of the ad-hoc meeting into an Expert Group on National Accounts as a standing body under CES.

The Conference will be invited to adopt the terms of reference for the Expert Group on national accounts as a standing body, and recommend the TOR to be submitted to UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) for approval.

(c) Programme planning documents for the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

The Conference will be invited to review and adopt the UNECE Statistical Programme for 2018, approved by the CES Bureau in October 2017. The document is in line with the Programme of Work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2018-2019 (ECE/CES/2017/13),

adopted by the Conference in June 2017 and approved by UNECE EXCOM in December 2017.

Furthermore, the Conference will be informed about the UN General Assembly resolution A/72/266 "Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations." that includes a change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis, beginning in 2020. Therefore, the biennial Strategic Frameworks and Programmes of Work will be replaced in future by annual programme plans and budgets.

12. Outcomes of in-depth reviews carried out by the Conference of European Statisticians Bureau in October 2017 and February 2018

The Conference will be informed about the outcomes of in-depth reviews of selected statistical areas carried out by the CES Bureau. These reviews are important tools of coordination to address emerging issues and identify gaps or duplication of work. The reviews focus on strategic issues and highlight concerns of statistical offices of both a conceptual and a coordinating nature.

The Conference will be invited to review and endorse the outcomes of the in-depth reviews carried out by the CES Bureau since the previous CES plenary session, namely 'Emerging issues in statistical communication' and 'Gaps in gender statistics' reviewed in October 2017, and 'Measuring social exclusion' reviewed in February 2018.

13. Other business

Any additional issues that the Conference needs to be informed of can be taken up under this agenda item.

14. Adoption of the report and closing of the meeting

A draft report of the CES plenary session, including the main decisions, will be adopted at the end of the meeting (in English only). A detailed report will be prepared after the Conference and will be sent for comments to all participants. The finalized report will be translated into French and Russian.

III. Organization of work

A detailed timetable will be made available on the official website of the Conference (www.unece.org/stats/documents/2018.06.ces.html) before the plenary session.

Date	*Item/Programme*
Monday, 18 June	
09:30-09:40	1, 2
09:40-15:30	3
15:50-16:15	4 (a)
16:15-16:30	5
16:30-17:30	6

Tuesday, 19 June

09:30-15:30	7
15:50-16:15	8
16:15-16:40	9
16:40-17:00	10
17:00-17:30	4 (b), 4 (c), 4 (d)

Wednesday, 20 June

09:30-10:10	4 (e), 4 (f)
10:10-10:35	11
10:35-11:05	12
11:05-11:50	4 (g)
11:50-12:30	13, 14